

Department of Justice

United States Attorney Gregory G. Lockhart Southern District of Ohio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2006 http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ohs CONTACT: Fred Alverson 614-469-5715 FAX: 614-469-5503

FAIRFIELD RESTAURANT OWNER INDICTED FOR EMPLOYING, TRANSPORTING AND HARBORING ILLEGAL ALIENS

Forfeiture of house, restaurant, cash also sought

CINCINNATI – A federal grand jury here has indicted the owner of Bee's Buffet restaurant in Fairfield, Jing Fei Jiang, age 37, alleging that he employed, transported and harbored illegal aliens at his restaurant. The indictment also alleges that Jiang claimed to be a U.S. citizen when he applied for a small business loan, even though he's a citizen of China and has been living in the United States illegally since 1990.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent-in-charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit announced the 12-count indictment returned yesterday.

The indictment alleges that Jiang did encourage and induce three illegal aliens to reside and remain in the United States, for the purpose of commercial advantage or private financial gain, through employing such alien at Bee's Buffet, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that it was in violation of law for such alien to reside or remain in the United States. The restaurant is located at 725 Niles Road in Fairfield.

The indictment charges Jiang with three counts of illegally employing an unauthorized alien, three counts of illegally transporting an unauthorized alien, three counts of illegally harboring an unauthorized alien, one count of false attestation of citizenship, and one count of making a false statement to a bank on a loan application.

On or about March 28, 2005 Jiang falsely represented himself to be a citizen of the United States on an SBA Express and Community Express Borrower Information Form, SBA Form 1919, an Addendum to an application for a loan/line of credit with U.S. Bank, Fairfield, Ohio, which loan/line of credit was guaranteed by the U.S. Small Business Administration pursuant to its Small Business Loan program when, in fact, as he then well knew, he was not and is not a citizen of the United States.

The indictment contains one count seeking forfeiture of Jiang's home, the restaurant, the contents of three bank accounts, \$150,000 in cash seized from a safe deposit box, \$179,397 in cash seized from a safe in his house, and a 2004 Nissan Titan.

"ICE special agents from the Cincinnati office, assisted by the Fairfield Police

Department, executed federal search warrants at Jiang's residence and place of business on June
5 and arrested 10 individuals suspected of immigration law violations," Lockhart said. "We
continue to work with all law enforcement agencies to act against those who subvert our
immigration laws." Jiang has been in custody since his arrest.

"No matter how large or how small the company, ICE has no tolerance for individuals who use illegal aliens in their workforce," said Moskowitz, special agent-in-charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit. "ICE will use all the tools within our arsenal to bring employers to justice that engage in this type of criminal activity." Moskowitz' area of operations includes the States of Michigan and Ohio.

Jiang was ordered deported from the U.S. by a federal immigration judge in December 1990. He has since been living illegally in the United States.

If convicted, Jiang faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000 on each of the first nine counts. Making a false attestation of citizenship carries a penalty of up to three years imprisonment. Making false statements to a bank on a loan application carries a punishment of up to 30 years imprisonment. These are statutory maximum sentences. Actual sentences will be determined by Senior U.S. District Judge S. Arthur Spiegel, who is presiding over the case.

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by ICE agents and Fairfield Police officers, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Anne Porter, who is prosecuting the case.

An indictment is merely an accusation. All defendants are presumed innocent until and unless convicted in a court of law.